

Message Text

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11

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 /122 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:GM

APPROVED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS

EA/VN:MR.WENZEL

DOD/ISA:LCOL.KRAAK

DOD/ISA:DR.SHIELDS

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P R 052200Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CH USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

INFO CINCPAC

CDR JCRC NKP

COMUSSAG

DAO SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198921

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: FPJMT

REF: FPJMT 041100Z OCT 73

1. RE PARA H REFTTEL, WE RECALL THAT US NEGOTIATORS ASKED DRV OFFICIALS IN PARIS TO PROVIDE PW AND DIC LISTS DIRECT TO US OFFICIALS ON JANUARY 27, WITHOUT PUBLIC RELEASE, TO ENABLE US TO INFORM NEXT OF KIN BEFORE NAMES APPEARED IN THE PRESS. THIS REQUEST WAS MADE FOR OBVIOUS HUMANITARIAN REASONS OCCASIONED BY NVN'S REFUSAL THROUGH THE YEARS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON OUR PW/MIA'S, AS REQUIRED BY GENEVA CONVENTION, AS A RESULT OF WHICH MANY FAMILIES RECEIVED FIRST WORD ON MEN MISSING FOR MANY YEARS WHEN NAMES
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APPEARED ON DRV/PRG LISTS. THERE IS NO WAY THIS REQUEST

COULD BE CONSTRUED THAT "US WAS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT DRV'S ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF 8B." TO THE CONTRARY, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO COOPERATE WITH DRV ON THIS HUMANITARIAN QUESTION, BY FURNISHING LISTS, SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON CASES, AND OTHER DATA ON OUR MISSING MEN. RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT 8B WITH REGARD TO INFO ON AMERICAN MIA/DIC'S RESTS ENTIRELY WITH DRV/PRG.

2. ON QUESTION OF ALLOWING RELATIVES OF US DIC'S TO VISIT GRAVES IN NVN, WE RECALL STATEMENTS BY DRV OFFICIALS TO EFFECT THAT RELATIVES OF DIC'S COULD MAKE SUCH VISITS. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE USG HAS NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THIS "INVITATION," AND WE HAVE NOT "REFUSED PERMISSION" FOR FAMILIES TO VISIT GRAVES. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT POLICY HAS BEEN TO DISCOURAGE PW/MIA RELATIVES FROM ATTEMPTING SUCH TRAVEL TO NVN, SINCE THIS COULD INTERFERE WITH EFFORTS IN FPJMT TO ARRANGE RETURN OF REMAINS. BASIC CONCERN OF FAMILIES IS RETURN OF REMAINS AND ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING, AS REQUIRED BY 8B, NOT FRUITLESS TRAVEL TO NVN.

3. SUGGEST USDEL DRAW ON FOREGOING TO RESPOND TO PARA G ALLEGATIONS.

4. IN GENERAL, WE WISH TO COMMEND USDEL'S SKILLED HANDLING OF THEIR IMPORTANT IF FRUSTRATING RESPONSIBILITY. RUSH

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